

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Toshihiro ENDO et al.

Serial No.: 09/639,850

Filed: August 16, 2000

For: STENCIL PRINTER



Art Unit: 2854

Examiner: M. Crenshaw

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on 2-27-01

Linda McElwain

AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated January 3, 2001, and further to a February 13 personal interview, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-3 as follows:

1. (Amended) A stencil printer comprising an ink supply pump in the form of a diaphragm pump, wherein a drive assembly limits a stress applied to a diaphragm to less than 75% of the elastic limit of the diaphragm.
2. (Amended) A stencil printer as defined in Claim 1 in which the [diaphragm pump is arranged to be stopped] drive assembly is configured to stop in a position where the stress applied to the diaphragm of the diaphragm pump is not larger than 75% of the elastic limit of the diaphragm.
3. (Amended) A stencil printer as defined in claim 1 in which the [diaphragm pump is arranged so that] drive assembly is configured such that the maximum stress applied to the diaphragm during operation of the diaphragm pump does not exceed 75% of the elastic limit of the diaphragm.